Increase in damage due to floods

*51. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:
SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that damage due to floods has been on the increase;

(b) if so, which are the factors responsible for such a trend;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Central Government have circulated to the States a model bill for flood zoning to regulate developmental activities; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the State Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) An increasing trend in the flood damages, as reported by the State Governments, has been observed in recent years. The main factors contributing to this trend are as follows:

(i) Increasing encroachment of the flood plains due to population pressure and developmental activities;

(ii) Increase in the agricultural productivity;

(iii) Increase in private and public investments in houses, property and land development in the flood plains;

(iv) Better reporting and estimation of the losses; and

(v) Rise in price level.

(c) and (d) The Central Government had circulated to the States in July, 1975 a Model Flood Plan Zoning Bill for enactment by the State Legislature. So far only the State of Manipur has enacted the Legislation.

Lal Bahadur Canal of Nagarjunasagar

*52. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Governments attention has been darwn to the news item published in the 'Deccan Chronicle' of 11th July, 1984 to the effect that defective construction work is being carried on in the cement lining of the Lal Bahadur Canal of Nagarjunasagar Project by the contractors in league with Government officials;

(b) whether it is a fact that work on this project has not been done according to fixed standards and specifications; and

(c) whether Government propose to institute a probe in the matter, and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The news item has come to the notice of the Centre. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that the lining work is being done as per specified standards and sepcifications.

(c) The matter entirely falls within the purview of the State Government.

Capitation Fees in New Medical Colleges in Maharashtra

*53. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
SHRI S. W. DHABE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Maharashtra Government have given permission to three private medical colleges which started functioning in that State from the current academic session, to charge Rs. 30,000 as annual fees from each student; if so, when was the permission given;

(b) what are the reasons for charging exorbitant fees from the students;